

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:
  - a substrate having heat resistance;
  - a coating layer which is composed of a carrier containing alumina as a main component, and zeolite, and formed on a surface of said substrate;
  - a noble metal which is carried by said coating layer, the weight ratio of alumina and zeolite in said coating layer ranging from 5 : 1 to 1 : 1; and
  - an HC-adsorbent layer interposed between said substrate and said coating layer, wherein the HC-adsorbent layer includes no noble metal.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:
  - a substrate having heat resistance;
  - an HC-adsorbent layer comprising zeolite formed on a surface of said substrate, wherein said zeolite consists of  $\beta$ -type zeolite;
  - a lower catalyst layer which is composed of a porous carrier carrying only Pd and excluding ~~all other noble metals~~ Pt and Rh, and is formed on a surface of said HC-adsorbent layer; and
  - an upper catalyst layer which is composed of a porous carrier carrying Pt and Rh, and is formed on a surface of said lower catalyst layer;  
wherein Pt and Rh are carried on the same porous carrier.
4. (Original) A catalyst as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one of said lower catalyst layer and said upper catalyst layer contains at least oxide containing Ce.

5. (Original) A catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein said noble metal is at least one selected from the group consisting of Pt, Rh and Pd.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein said HC-adsorbent is zeolite.

8. (Previously Presented) A catalyst as claimed in claim 7, wherein said zeolite is  $\beta$ -type zeolite.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A catalyst as claimed in claim 3, wherein the HC-adsorbent layer consists of  $\beta$ -type zeolite.